

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-02 AID-05 MC-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 291471

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, PFOR, MA, US

SUBJECT: SALE OF L-100'S: MALAGASY CHARGE'S CALL ON AF/E
DIRECTOR

1. MALAGASY CHARGE RANDRIANASOLO CALLED ON AF/E DIRECTOR POST NOVEMBER 24 TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL PROBLEMS OF EXPORT LICENSE FOR PROPOSED SALE OF L-100'S. POST NOTED THAT SUCH LICENSES ARE ROUTINELY APPROVED FOR COUNTRIES WITH WHOM WE HAVE NORMAL RELATIONS AND IN WHOSE INTENTIONS WE CAN HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE BECAUSE OF THEIR DEMONSTRATED RELIABILITY TOWARDS US. HE NOTED THAT GDRM HAS RECENTLY GIVEN SOME SIGNS OF ITS DESIRE FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH THE US AND WE HOPE THAT CONCRETE STEPS BY THE GDRM ALONG THAT PATH WILL ENABLE US TO RESUME THE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WE ENJOYED IN THE PAST.

2. POST NOTED THAT VIRTUALLY ALL TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT HAVE SOME CAPABILITY FOR MILITARY USE AND THIS POSSIBILITY
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PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN CASE L-100 SINCE IT DERIVED FROM MI-

LITARY C-130. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT GDRM INTENDED PLACE PLANES UNDER SUPERVISION OF MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS; HOWEVER, HE DID NOTE THAT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE MIGHT USE PLANES TO TRANSPORT SOLDIERS DURING CIVIC ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

3. CONTRARY TO INDICATIONS GIVEN US BY LOCKHEED REPS, (SEPTTEL) CHARGE MAINTAINED THAT GDRM WAS INDEED INTERESTED IN EXIM FINANCING AND COULD NOT PURCHASE THE PLANES ON A CASH BASIS. POST TOLD HIM THAT SINCE EXIM IS PRECLUDED BY LAW FROM FINANCING MILITARY SALES, WE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THIS TRANSACTION TO DETERMINE THAT MILITARY USES WOULD BE EXCLUDED. POST CONGRATULATED GDRM FOR ITS CHOICE OF THE L-100, WHICH IS AN EXCELLENT PLANE AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SALE WOULD GO THROUGH ONCE WE RESOLVED DOUBTS ABOUT END USE AND GAINED GREATER CONFIDENCE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. MEETING WAS FRANK AND CORDIAL, AND CHARGE DEPARTED WITH EXPRESSION OF SINCERE HOPES THAT RELATIONS WOULD IN FACT IMPROVE. HE ALSO SAID THAT SHOULD EXIM FINANCING NOT BE AVAILABLE, GDRM INTENDED LOOK FOR COMMERCIAL BANK LOAN TO COVER THE SALE, LEAVING THE IMPRESSION THAT GDRM IS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN THE L-100 AS SUCH AND NOT READY AT THIS TIME TO CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE. ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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